

REMARKS

Claims 18, 20-22, 24-25, 27-32, and 34-41 are currently pending in the application. Claims 1-16, 19, 23, 26, and 33 were previously cancelled. Claims 18, 20, 22, 24, and 27-30 have been amended, and Claim 17 has been cancelled. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the pending claims in view of the following remarks.

Double Patenting

The Examiner rejected Claims 17, 18, 20, 21, 30, and 31 on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over Claims 1, 3-6, and 11-13 of U.S. Patent No. 6,979,307.

The Examiner provisionally rejected Claims 17, 18, 20, and 21 on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over Claims 7, 9, and 10 of copending Application No. 11/284,584

Applicants have cancelled Claim 17, and therefore this rejection is moot with respect to Claim 17. Applicants have amended Claims 18, 20, 21, 30, and 31 to depend from an allowable claim, and therefore this rejection also is moot with respect to those claims.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that Claims 22, 24, 25, and 27-29 are allowable.

Applicants also appreciate the Examiner's indication that Claims 32 and 34-41 are allowed.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, entry of this Amendment and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested. The undersigned is available for telephone consultation during normal business hours.

Respectfully submitted,

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